

**Questions & Answers**  
**Solicitation to Address High Purchase Costs and Disposal Impacts of PEV Battery Packs**  
**PON-12-501**

- 1. Relating to both Research Topic Areas, at what stage of the research does the Energy Commission envision a battery manufacturer needing to be involved?**

*The Energy Commission is not dictating when battery manufacturers are needed. Instead, the proposal should indicate at what stage of the proposed research it would be most appropriate for battery manufacturers to become involved to maximize the potential of the proposed work and a path to market.*

- 2. Can the same Principle Investigator be used under each topic area for multiple applications?**

*A person may only serve as the Principle Investigator on one proposal per topic area. An entity may submit one proposal for each topic area using the same Principal Investigator, and/or may submit multiple proposals to the same topic area using different Principle Investigators.*

- 3. Is battery research on both PEVs and PHEVs eligible?**

*Both Plug-In Electric Vehicles (PEVs) and Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) are eligible for battery research.*

- 4. Do the hard copies of proposals need to be physically at the Energy Commission by the due date or would electronic copies by the due date be sufficient?**

*Hard copies of the proposal(s) (1 original and 6 copies) as well as an electronic version (CD or flash drive) must be physically at the Commission by the due date identified in the Application Manual.*

- 5. Please expand on how the Economic Investment in California Scoring Criteria will be evaluated.**

*At least 60% of PIER funds must be spent in California. Proposals that exceed the 60% requirement will receive higher scores. (See the "Scoring for Economic Investment in California" table in the Scoring Criteria section of the Application Manual.)*

**6. Please provide additional information on cost sharing.**

*Cost Sharing, referred to as match funding in the Application Manual, is not a requirement for this solicitation. Cost share or match funding is defined as cash or in-kind (non-cash) contributions that will be used by the contractor, subcontractors, or other parties in performance of the agreement. Proposals that provide match funding will receive additional points as indicated in the "Scoring for Match Funding" table found in the Scoring Criteria Section of the Application Manual.*

**7. What is being looked for with loaded vs. unloaded hourly rate scoring criteria and how will scores/points be assigned?**

*This is indicative of the funding for research versus overhead. The loaded vs. unloaded rates will be derived from Attachment 5 Budget Forms (Attachment B-8 Rates Summary worksheet), which compares the weighted unloaded rate to the weighted loaded rate. This ratio, which is a percentage, is multiplied by the possible points for this criterion.*

**8. Regarding the California Based Entity (CBE) requirement, how do you treat an entity that has a presence in multiple states? How do you define the California base?**

*Entities with a business presence in multiple states qualify as CBEs if they fall within the definition of a CBE:*

*A corporation or other business form organized for the transaction of business that either:*

- Has its headquarters in California AND manufactures in California the product that is the subject of the award; OR*
- Has an office for the transaction of business in California AND substantially manufactures the product or substantially performs the research within California that is the subject of the award.*

*"Headquarters" means the center of the entity's business operations.*

**9. Please provide additional CBE details and clarification. Can a company be in the process of establishing itself as a CBE at the time of proposal submission to meet the CBE requirement?**

*The company must be an existing CBE at the time of proposal submission.*

- 10. We have a significant office in California though we are a global company. Will this qualify us to submit to the solicitation provided we can show more than 60% of the money will remain in California?**

*The California Based Entity requirement and the Economic Investment in California requirement are separate and distinct. If an entity meets the definition of a CBE (see Question 8) and 60% of the PIER funds are allocated to that entity or a combination of entities that meet the CBE definition, then the proposal meets the 60% CBE requirement.*

*To meet the Economic Investment in California requirement, the budget must indicate that a minimum of 60% of PIER funds will be spent in California.*

- 11. Can you define recycling and what is being looked for in terms of recycling for this solicitation?**

*Recycling should involve the break-down of the battery at the end of its useful life and recovery of valuable materials and environmentally responsible handling of any remaining waste.*

- 12. On Research Topic 1, the second bullet: “Estimate lifecycle cost impacts from standardizing various battery pack parameters, designs, and components.” Does that also include lifecycle market impacts and/or lifecycle environmental impacts or is the only focus on economics?**

*If market and environmental impacts have an effect of the cost of the electric vehicle batteries, they would be applicable. If the impacts do not tie back to the cost of the battery, they would not be applicable.*

- 13. If impure lithium ion is taken and used for a different purpose (non-PEV related), but created a residual value that could offset the cost of the PEV batteries, would that be considered within the scope of the solicitation?**

*Yes, that would be considered within the scope of the solicitation, but the proposal must clearly describe the benefits in terms of reducing the economic and environmental cost of PEV batteries.*

- 14. Could you describe what battery parameters are included in the standards you envision? We assume these include things such as footprint and capacity.**

*It will be up to the applicant to propose appropriate parameters for standardization and a justification as to why those parameters will be key.*

- 15. We are planning to develop a detailed battery lifecycle cost model that looks at the battery in various applications such as vehicle, V2G, and second life. Would such a detailed model be considered important for the purposes of this solicitation (i.e., would such a model be important for the second bulleted objective listed in the project description)?**

*The solicitation is seeking proposals that focus on battery standardization. Although the modeling work described above may be beneficial to lifecycle impacts from standardization, it would not be speaking directly to the research objective.*

- 16. Does the proposal target light-duty vehicles only or does it also include medium and heavy-duty vehicles?**

*Light, medium, and heavy-duty PEV or PHEV battery packs are eligible.*

- 17. Does the solicitation target only batteries or, more generally, energy storage devices such as ultra-capacitors?**

*The solicitation is seeking proposals that focus specifically on battery packs. Energy storage devices such as ultra-capacitors are not eligible under this solicitation.*

- 18. What is the final outcome expected at the end of the research project? Are you looking at a document, report, model or a process to be implemented?**

*It will be up to the applicant to identify an appropriate end product to their proposed project. At a minimum a final report will be due to the Energy Commission outlining project activities and key findings.*

- 19. Item 5 on page 10 (scope of work) states: "All work must be scheduled for completion by March 31, 2015 including six months of data collection and reporting." Could you elaborate on the requirement for six months of data collection and reporting?**

*Six months of data collection will only be required on projects for which it would be applicable, for example, projects that include a demonstration and/or testing component. If a proposed project does not require data collection, this requirement would not be applicable.*

- 20. Does the repurposing of batteries correspond to recycling? A partner may have both materials and repurposing recycling pathways.**

*Repurposing and/or reconditioning of batteries for secondary uses does not qualify as recycling under this solicitation. Recycling should involve the break-down of the battery at the end of its useful life and recovery of valuable materials and environmentally responsible handling of any remaining waste.*

- 21. Please provide a definition of “large-scale recycling”. Is the intent to solely disassemble battery packs and recover materials with residual value? Is recovery of usable components and use in a remanufactured battery pack a qualifying process?**

*The term “large-scale recycling” is a relative term. The solicitation is seeking proposals that target larger scale or larger capacity. Also, please see answer to Question 20.*

- 22. Can you please define up to what extent a recycling project could be of interest to the Energy Commission as part of a well-rounded approach to address high purchase costs and disposal impacts of PEV battery packs?**

*The Energy Commission is interested in advanced processes and technologies that can reduce the economic and environmental costs of PEV battery pack disposal in California.*

- 23. For match funding, what would qualify as previous money spent?**

*As identified in the revised language of Addendum 1, only funds spent after project approval at a Commission Business Meeting are eligible to count as match funding.*

- 24. Is a federal grant an acceptable source of Match Funding?**

*A federal grant is an acceptable source of match funding. However, the federal grant funds will have to be spent after approval of the project at a Commission Business Meeting. Funds spent prior to the Business Meeting do not count as match funding.*

- 25. Will a list of participants be made available?**

*Yes, a list of participants is available at the following link:  
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/pier.html#PON-12-501>.*

- 26. When will the Q/A be made available?**

*The posting date for the Q&A document is December 6, 2012.*